

Letters

Sexual abuse problem needs attention

An investigatory show on child pornography recently was aired by a national TV network. It revealed that more than 5,000 children were sexually abused last week in the U.S., some photographed by pornographers. A direct link between sexual abuse and child pornography was made — U.S. postal inspectors found that 80% of the buyers of pornography they investigated abuse children sexually. Chicago police discovered an even stronger connection, with nearly 100% of the pornography collectors they investigated possessing evidence (Polaroid photos, videotapes and movies) that showed them having sex with children. One study found that half of the children forced into sex rings were used in pornography.

Although the TV program focused pornography in Denmark and Holland, it also is true that a huge amount of pornography is

made in the U.S., some in Nebraska. Pornography is a \$9 billion-per-year industry in this country, larger than the recording and film industries combined, and child pornography is the fastest growing segment. Pornographic images of children are invading the mainstream media, resulting in increased sexual objectification of the young.

It is gut-wrenching to realize the range of abuse that takes place within pornography and the inevitable harm to its victims, but we must see pornography for what it is — sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children. Lincoln Women Against Pornography does education, research and action on pornography — we may be contacted c/o WAVAW, 901 P St., room 427, Lincoln (68508).

Anna Capek
Lincoln Women Against Pornography

Lack of space leads to housing hassle

Everyone at UNL should know how kind and thoughtful the Office of University Housing is. Having been placed in a temporary triple room as the third person, I received a bed. No closet, no drawers, no desk, no chair. Only a bed.

Yes, I signed up late. But if there was not enough space available, they should not have accepted my contract. In fact, when I called to ask about capacity, the person from the office said, "there's plenty of room left."

I understand that dormitories are unexpectedly full this semester. And I do not mind being placed in a temporary room. But every student who signs a contract should receive the necessities of dorm life — at least a desk and chair — however temporary the arrangement may be. I paid not a penny less than any other student in the dormitories, yet I received only a bed.

Doug Zatechka, director of Housing, I hope you are reading this because I was not allowed to talk to you in person. Apparently, your secretary did not think my problem was important enough to talk to you directly. She told me to call maintenance, whom I already had called twice and been flatly denied both times because of "university policy." I called the residence director twice. And I talked to your assistant director of housing, Gary Partridge, who said, "I understand your frustration, but I am not going to buy a desk for you."

Who do I go to when the assistant director says no?

Thanks to Deb Mullen, Smith Hall's RD, I received a desk Wednesday — after four days of continuous inquiry. What is ridiculous is that I had to actually request something that should have been available to me when I moved in. Did it have to be such a battle?

Partridge told me it costs money to store extra desks and chairs. Well, it costs me money to live on campus, too. I did not pay \$1,925 for only a bed.

Doug Zatechka, do you know how much fun it is to live out of five boxes and a bed? May I suggest you and your staff get together for a meeting to possibly alter your present policy on temporary triples to make it more liveable for others who get caught in the same situation.

Janet H. Chu
senior, business administration

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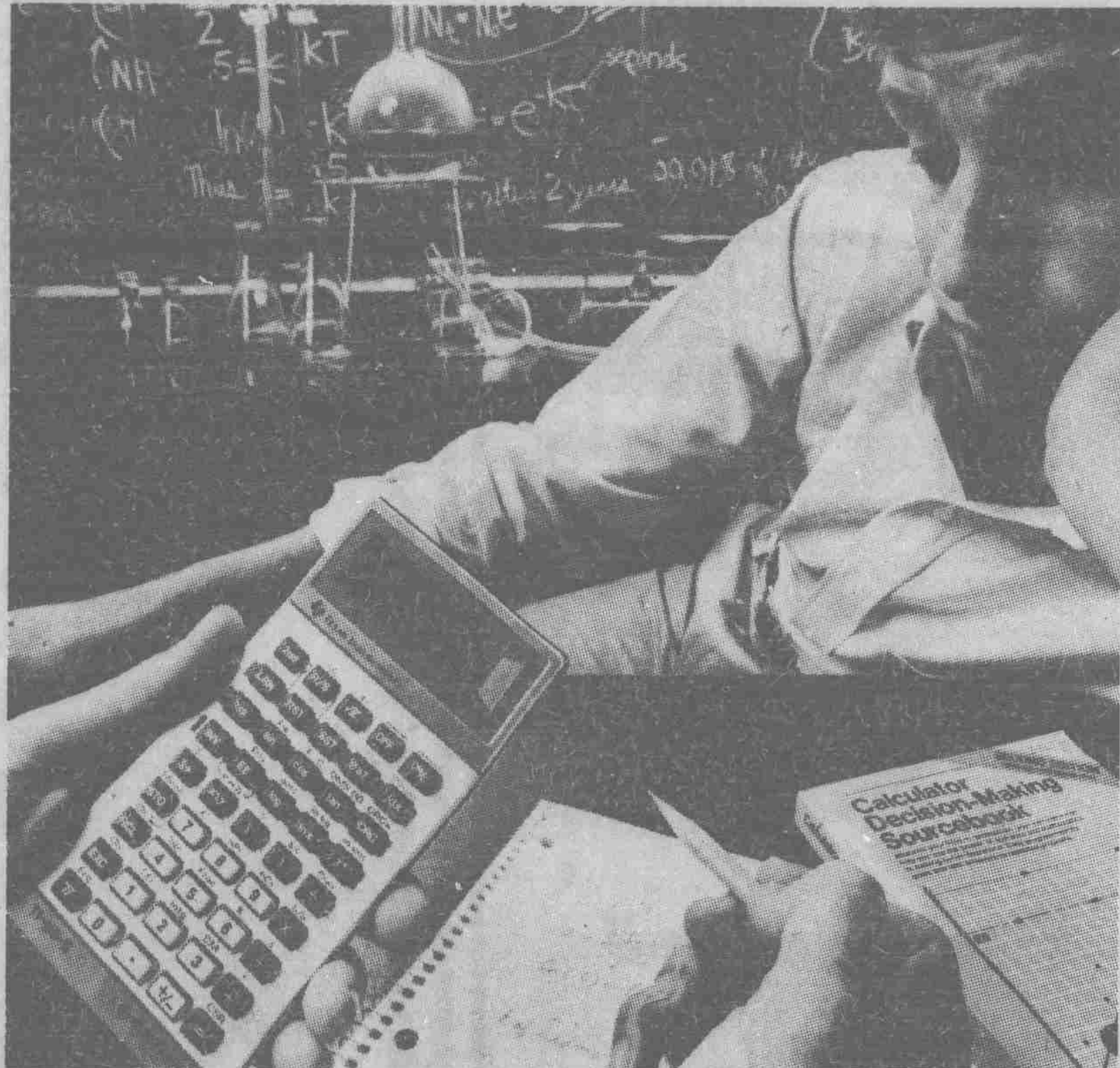
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